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Houston-Galveston-Brazoria: Current Attainment Status

Compliance of HGB-area counties with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Note: This table is intended to provide a listing of designations and classifications for current, active National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). While NAAQS which have been revoked by the EPA do not appear in this table, some antibacksliding obligations may continue to apply for revoked standards. This table is to be used for informational purposes only and should not be used to determine regulatory requirements in any of the counties listed.

HGB Area: Attainment Status by Pollutant

Pollutant	Primary NAAQS	Averaging Period	Designation	Counties	Attainment Deadline
Ozone (O ₃)*	0.070 ppm (2015 standard)	8-hour	Pending		
	0.075 ppm (2008 standard)	8-hour	Moderate Nonattainment	Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Waller	July 20, 2018
Lead (Pb)	0.15 µg/m ³ (2008 standard)	Rolling 3-Month Average	Unclassifiable/Attainment		
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	9 ppm	8-hour	Unclassifiable/Attainment		
	35 ppm	1-hour	Unclassifiable/Attainment		
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	0.053 ppm	Annual	Unclassifiable/Attainment		

	100 ppb	1-hour	Unclassifiable/ Attainment		
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	150 µg/m ³	24-hour	Unclassifiable/ Attainment		
Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5})	12.0 µg/m ³ (2012 standard)	Annual (Arithmetic Mean)	Unclassifiable/ Attainment		
	15.0 µg/m ³ (1997 standard)	Annual (Arithmetic Mean)	Unclassifiable/ Attainment		
	35 µg/m ³	24-hour	Unclassifiable/ Attainment		
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	0.03 ppm**	Annual (Arithmetic Mean)	Unclassifiable/ Attainment		
	0.14 ppm**	24-hour	Unclassifiable/ Attainment		
	75 ppb	1-hour	Governor's Recommendation: Attainment	Galveston, Harris	

**The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revoked the one-hour ozone standard and the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard in all areas, although some areas have continuing obligations under these standards. See [ozone history](#)[5] for more information.

**Standard will be revoked one year after the effective date of final designations for the 75 ppb standard.

For more information on attainment status, visit the EPA's [Green Book](#)[6] [\[7\]](#) Web page regarding nonattainment areas for criteria pollutants.

HGB Nonattainment Areas

2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard Designation: Moderate Nonattainment, effective December 14, 2016 ([81 FR 90207](#)[8] and [82 FR 3172](#)[9]) [\[10\]](#)

Former 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard Designation: Marginal Nonattainment, effective July 20, 2012 ([77 FR 30088](#)[11]) [\[12\]](#)

On March 27, 2008, the EPA lowered the primary and secondary eight-hour ozone NAAQS to 0.075 parts per million (ppm) ([73 FR 16436](#)[13]) [\[14\]](#). An eight-county HGB area including Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties was designated "nonattainment" and classified "marginal" under the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS, effective July 20, 2012. The HGB area includes the same eight counties that were designated "nonattainment" under the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard. The attainment deadline for the HGB marginal nonattainment area was July 20, 2015. On May 4, 2016, the EPA published a final rule in the *Federal Register* ([81 FR 26697](#))[15] [\[16\]](#) granting a one-year attainment deadline extension for the HGB 2008 eight-hour ozone marginal nonattainment area to

July 20, 2016. Because the HGB area's 2015 design value exceeded the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS, the EPA published a final determination of nonattainment and reclassification of the HGB 2008 eight-hour ozone nonattainment area from marginal to moderate nonattainment on December 14, 2016, effective on the same date ([81 FR 90207](#)[17]) [18]. The attainment deadline for the HGB moderate nonattainment area is July 20, 2018.

1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard Designation: Severe Nonattainment, October 1, 2008 ([73 FR 56983](#)[19]) [20]

Former 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard Designation: Moderate Nonattainment, April 30, 2004 ([69 FR 23858](#)[21]) [22]

An eight-county HGB area was designated "nonattainment" under the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS, and classified as a moderate nonattainment area on April 30, 2004. The counties affected under this designation are Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller. The EPA granted the governor's request to voluntarily reclassify the HGB ozone nonattainment area from a moderate to a severe nonattainment area for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard, effective October 31, 2008. The HGB area's new attainment deadline for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard is as expeditiously as practicable but no later than June 15, 2019.

Status: The EPA published a final determination of attainment for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard for the HGB area on December 30, 2015 ([80 FR 81466](#)[23]) [24]. On August 18, 2015, the TCEQ submitted the [Redesignation Substitute Report for the HGB 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard Nonattainment Area](#)[25] to the EPA. This report fulfilled the EPA's redesignation substitute requirements to lift anti-backsliding obligations for the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS which was revoked effective April 6, 2015. The EPA published final approval of the redesignation substitute report on November 8, 2016 ([81 FR 78691](#)[26]) [27] with an effective date of December 8, 2016.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

The EPA sets [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#)[28] [29] for six principal criteria pollutants: ground-level ozone, lead, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter.

Within one year after promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS for any pollutant, the governor must submit designation recommendations to the EPA for all areas of the state. The EPA must then promulgate the designations within two years of promulgation of the revised NAAQS. Areas that do not meet (or contribute to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) the NAAQS are designated "nonattainment." Areas that meet the NAAQS are designated "attainment," and areas that cannot be classified based on the available information, "unclassifiable."

For ozone, the federal Clean Air Act establishes nonattainment-area classifications ranked according to the severity of the area's air-pollution problem. These classifications—*marginal*, *moderate*, *serious*, *severe*, and *extreme*—translate to varying requirements with which Texas and nonattainment areas must comply.

[1] <https://www.tceq.texas.gov>

[2] <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality>

[3] <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip>

[4] <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/hgb>

[5] <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/hgb/hgb-ozone-history>

[6] <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/index.html>

[7] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[8] <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-14/pdf/2016-29999.pdf>

[9] [https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-11/pdf/2017-00086.pdf?](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-11/pdf/2017-00086.pdf?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email)

[utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-01-11/pdf/2017-00086.pdf?utm_campaign=subscription%20mailing%20list&utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email)

[10] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[11] <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-21/pdf/2012-11618.pdf>

[12] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[13] <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-5645.pdf>

[14] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[15] <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-04/pdf/2016-09729.pdf>

[16] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[17] <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-14/pdf/2016-29999.pdf>

[18] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[19] <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-22685.pdf>

[20] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[21] <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-9152.pdf>

[22] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[23] <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-30/pdf/2015-32752.pdf>

[24] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[25] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/implementation/air/sip/hgb/1997ozone_RS_Report/HGB_RS_1997_8Hr_report.pdf

[26] <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-11-08/pdf/2016-26586.pdf>

[27] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

[28] <https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table>

[29] http://www.tceq.texas.gov/help/policies/linking_policy.html

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